AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1.   *(Currently Amended)* A lift comprising:
a parallelogram linkage;
a platform coupled to the parallelogram linkage, the platform capable of being stowed onto the parallelogram linkage; and
an active opener arm coupled to the parallelogram linkage, wherein the active opener arm is configured to engage the platform for movement toward and away from the parallelogram linkage,

wherein the active opener arm is slidably engaged with a portion of the parallelogram linkage.

2.   *(Previously Presented)* The lift of claim 1, wherein the active opener arm is capable of receiving the platform from a user when the platform is being stowed and lowering the platform onto the parallelogram linkage.

3.   *(Previously Presented)* The lift of claim 1, wherein the active opener arm is capable of lifting the platform off of the parallelogram linkage when the platform is being unstowed and making the platform more accessible to a user.

4.   *(Original)* The lift of claim 1, wherein the active opener arm is actuated mechanically by lowering or raising the parallelogram linkage.

5.   *(Original)* The lift of claim 1, wherein the active opener arm is actuated by an actuator.

6.   *(Cancelled)*

7.   *(Currently Amended)* A lift comprising:
a main frame having a lower frame coupling and an upper frame coupling;
a shackle having a lower shackle coupling and an upper shackle coupling;

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a lower arm rotatably coupled to the lower frame coupling and the lower shackle coupling, the lower arm having a lower arm coupling, the lower arm coupling defining a horizontal plane;

an upper arm rotatably coupled to the upper frame coupling and the upper shackle coupling, the upper arm having an upper arm coupling, the upper arm coupling being lower than the horizontal plane defined by the lower arm coupling,

wherein the lower frame coupling, the upper frame coupling, the lower shackle coupling, and the upper shackle coupling substantially form corners of a parallelogram, and

wherein the upper arm and the lower arm have substantially parallel axes of rotations; and

an active opener arm rotatably coupled to the lower arm coupling, the active opener arm slidably ~~coupled to~~ engaged with the upper arm coupling, wherein rotating the upper arm and the lower arm causes the active opener arm to rotate about the lower arm coupling.

8.   *(Original)* The lift of claim 7, further comprising:

a platform coupled to the shackle, the platform capable of being stowed to rest against the active opener arm.

9.   *(Previously Presented)* The lift of claim 8, wherein lowering the lower and upper arms causes the active opener arm to push the platform away from the lower and upper arms.

10.   *(Original)* The lift of claim 8, wherein raising the lower and upper arms causes the active opener arm to lower the platform toward the lower and upper arms.

11.   *(Currently Amended)* A lift comprising:

means for carrying a load;

means for lowering and raising the load coupled to the means for carrying a load, the means for carrying a load capable of being stowed; and

means for assisting a user in stowing and unstowing the means for carrying a load.

wherein the assisting means is configured to engage the carrying means for movement toward and away from the lowering and raising means, and

the assisting means is slidably engaged with a portion of the lowering and raising means.

12.   *(Currently Amended)* A method for assisting in stowing and unstowing a platform of a lift, the lift having a parallelogram linkage, the platform being coupled to the parallelogram linkage, the platform capable of being stowed onto the parallelogram linkage, the method comprising:

providing an active opener arm coupled to the parallelogram linkage, the active opener arm being capable of receiving the platform from a user when the platform is being stowed and lowering the platform onto the parallelogram linkage, the active opener arm is capable of lifting the platform off of the parallelogram linkage when the platform is being unstowed and presenting the platform to the user,

wherein the active opener arm is configured to engage the platform for movement toward and away from the parallelogram linkage, and

the active opener arm is slidably engaged with a portion of the parallelogram linkage.

13.   *(Currently Amended)* The lift of claim 1, wherein the active opener arm is rotatably coupled to a ~~first~~ portion of the parallelogram linkage.

14.   *(Cancelled)*

15.   *(Previously Presented)* The lift of claim 1, wherein the active opener arm is configured to move the platform toward and away from the parallelogram linkage at a variable rate.

16.   *(Previously Presented)* The lift of claim 1, wherein the platform comprises a segmented platform.

17.   *(Previously Presented)* The lift of claim 1, wherein the active opener arm comprises a roller for engaging the platform.

18.   *(Previously Presented)* The lift of claim 1, wherein the platform is configured to rest on a platform stop when stowed onto the parallelogram linkage.

19.   *(Previously Presented)* The lift of claim 1, wherein the active opener arm is adjustable in length.

20.   *(Previously Presented)* The lift of claim 1, wherein the active opener arm comprises a channel for engaging a pin on the parallelogram linkage.

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21. *(New)* The lift of claim 1, wherein the portion of the parallelogram linkage that the active opener arm is slidably engaged is a pin on the parallelogram linkage, and the pin is slidably engaged with a channel of the active opener arm.

22. *(New)* The lift of claim 11, wherein the portion of the lowering and raising means that the assisting means is slidably engaged is a pin of the lowering and raising means, and the pin is slidably engaged with a channel of the assisting means.

23. *(New)* The lift of claim 12, wherein the portion of the parallelogram linkage that the active opener arm is slidably engaged is a pin of the parallelogram linkage, and the pin is slidably engaged with a channel of the active opener arm.

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